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NASHVILLE - Tennessee Quality announced the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development as a winner of the 2000 Tennessee Quality Interest Award.

The mission of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is to be a seamless organization with proactive employees who enhance economic success for business and workers by bringing those who offer jobs and those who need jobs, job-related assistance, education and training together in a safe, profitable workplace.

Tennessee Gov. Don Sundquist said, "I applaud the accomplishments of the 2000 Tennessee Quality Award winners. These organizations serve to enhance Tennessee's reputation as the 'Quality State.' Tennessee Quality encourages organizations to strive for the highest levels of performance excellence through quality management practices. In today's competitive environment, excellence is a necessity, not an option."

"I am particularly proud that one of our state departments has been deemed a Tennessee Quality Interest Award winner," Sundquist added. "State government continually aims to operate more efficiently, and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and Commissioner Magill have proven their commitment to excellence."

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is made up of employees committed to both the development and protection of the state's workforce.

The Department is made up of six divisions: Employment and Workforce Development; Workers' Compensation; TOSHA; Employment Security; Boilers, Elevators, Mines, Labor Standards, and Labor Research and Statistics; and Planning and Accountability.

“Being such a diverse and large department, it is certainly an accomplishment to win the Tennessee Quality Interest Award. I commend each of the department’s employees who have dedicated their time and efforts to public service. They are truly committed to serving Tennesseans,” Commissioner Michael E. Magill said. “By winning this award, we know that we are headed in the right direction.”

Quality Interest recognition is provided to Tennessee organizations that indicate seriousness in promoting quality by beginning their quality journey and completing a series of educational steps. Recipients at this level have completed the basic elements associated with quality awareness and understanding and have shown an appreciation for the value of continual improvement of key products, services and processes.

The Tennessee Quality program is patterned after the Baldrige National Quality Award, recognized as the national standard of excellence for quality and productivity. Unlike the Baldrige Award, the Tennessee Quality program is open to all business and industry as well as governmental agencies and private educational institutions.

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The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.